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## City of Wichita Falls to Host Neighborhood Engagement Meeting

Wichita Falls, Texas – The City of Wichita Falls will hold its first public Neighborhood Engagement meeting with three sessions on Saturday, September 11, 2021. The Neighborhood Revitalization Program is a new initiative created from the City Council's Strategic Plan goal of revitalizing depressed and declining neighborhoods across the city. The meeting will be at Floral Heights United Methodist Church, 2214 10<sup>th</sup> Street, with three sessions at 9:00am, 11:00am and 2:00pm. Multiple sessions will be held in order to accommodate as many people as possible. Each session will be formatted the same and the same information will be discussed.

Residents, merchants, tenants and property owners in the area south of Seymour Highway, east of Kemp Boulevard, north of Kell Freeway West and west of Brook Avenue are the primary participants encouraged to attend the first meeting. The program will be a long-term initiative and process to conduct public input meetings, create ordinances and develop programs for the revitalization of many neighborhoods and areas in Wichita Falls. City Council and staff, as part of the City Council's 2019 Strategic Plan, identified the selected area. In addition to the area's central location and long-term establishment in the City, factors such as current condition of housing stock, housing affordability; potential for commercial business expansion and revitalization; availability of adequate public infrastructure; and overall potential for program success led to its selection as the initial revitalization area.

The future revitalization of the area also took on increased importance with the passage of Wichita Falls ISD's 2020 bond in which two new high schools will be built. The future use of the Wichita Falls Old High property will play a significant part in revitalization efforts for the area.

The engagement meeting is the first of what will be many opportunities for those who live, own businesses and own property in the area to provide input and have discussions about their future vision for the area. Following this meeting, staff will begin to compile information and form smaller oversight groups for further discussion of implementation and improvement efforts. Additional area input sessions and updates will also be conducted.

In addition to the public engagement meeting, a short, online questionnaire is also available for those who live and/or own property and businesses in the area to provide their input. Those wishing to take the survey can visit the Neighborhood Revitalization page on the City's website at: <a href="http://www.wichitafallstx.gov/2235/Neighborhood-Revitalization">http://www.wichitafallstx.gov/2235/Neighborhood-Revitalization</a>. City staff will also be distributing informational post cards to residents and business owners in the area during the week of the meeting.

Those wishing to receive updates on the City's neighborhood revitalization efforts can sign up through the City of Wichita Falls' Notify Me on the Neighborhood Services page . Residents and/or property owners in the area can also call the City of Wichita Falls Planning Division at (940) 761-7451 or email <a href="mailto:neighborhood-revitalization@wichitafallstx.gov">neighborhood-revitalization@wichitafallstx.gov</a> with questions or input.